

R E M A R K S

Examination and allowance of pending Claims 1-23 are respectfully requested.

The Examiner indicated Applicants' Claims 14-23 are allowed.

The Examiner also indicated that Applicants' Claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner indicated that Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon objected Claim 2.

Applicants have amended base Claim 1 to include all the limitations of dependent Claim 2, thereby rendering base Claim 1 allowable. Applicants have cancelled Claim 2. Further, Applicants contend it follows that Applicants' Claims 3-12, which depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1 are thus now also allowable.

C O N C L U S I O N

Based upon the above amendments, remarks and papers of record, Applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentably distinct over the prior art of record. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims and a prompt Notice of Allowance thereon.

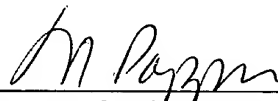
Applicant believes that **no** extension of time is necessary to make this Response timely. Should Applicant be in error, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Joanne Pappas at (978) 635-2289.

Respectfully submitted,

CORNING INCORPORATED
USPTO CUSTOMER NUMBER: 31362

Date: **November 3, 2003**



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